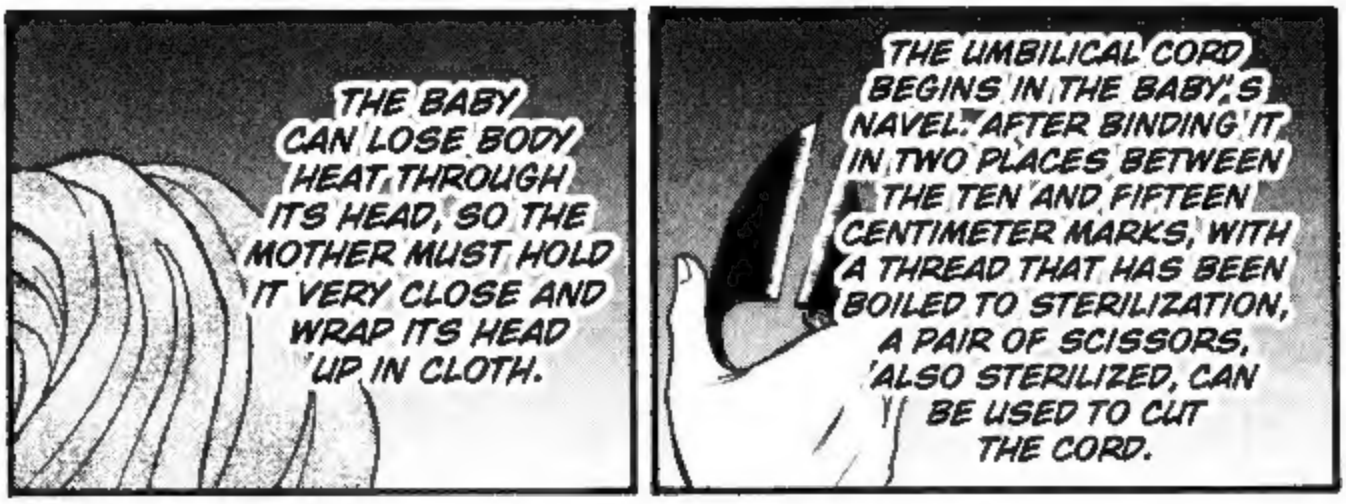
Act 30
Happy Days


THE BABY CAN LOSE BODY HEAT THROUGH ITS HEAD, SO THE MOTHER MUST HOLD IT VERY CLOSE AND WRAP ITS HEAD UP IN CLOTH.
THE UMBILICAL CORD BEGINS IN THE BABY'S NAVEL. AFTER BINDING IT IN TWO PLACES BETWEEN THE TEN AND FIFTEEN CENTIMETER MARKS, WITH A THREAD THAT HAS BEEN BOILED TO STERILIZATION, A PAIR OF SCISSORS, ALSO STERILIZED, CAN BE USED TO CUT THE CORD.

ELE-
ONORE.

2

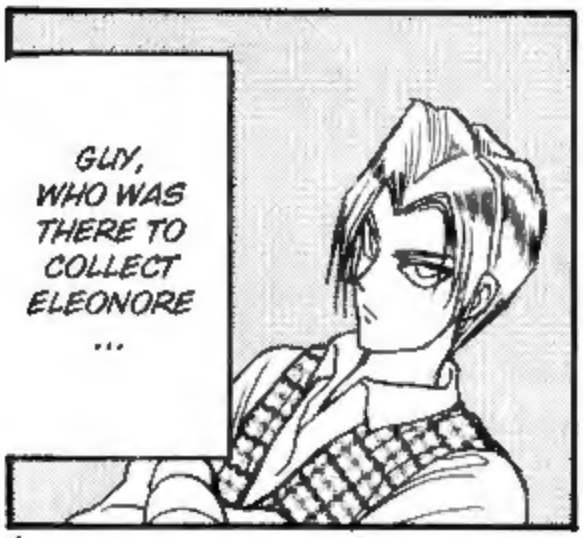
I WANT HER TO HAVE ONE LIKE YOURS.
ALTHOUGH I WOULD HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY HAPPY WITH A JAPANESE NAME...
OHO, SO IT'S ECCHAN, THEN! WHAT A NICE NAME YOUR MA 'N' PA GAVE YA!

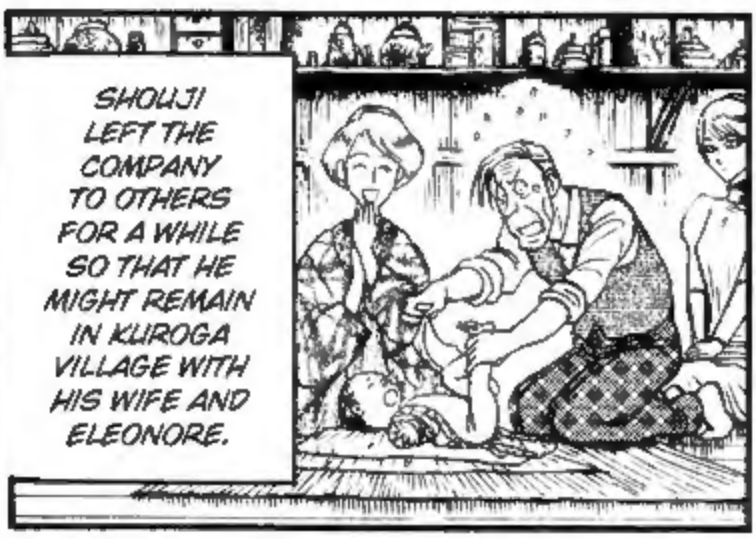
ELE... ONORE...
ELEONORE ...

GUY-KUN.
WHAT IS IT?
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
HMPH. IT WAS NOTHING.
YES?
YOU!
YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHIN', LITTLE FOREIGN MISSY! KEPT YER COOL EVEN WATCHIN' A BIRTH!
WELL... I...
I really am sorry.
Ferget it
HEY, TOME-HAN! CALL ONE'A THE YOUNG MEN. I'M GOIN' HOME.
Hya hya!
KEEP YER WITS ABOUT YA JEST LIKE THAT WHEN IT'S YER TURN, 'N' EVEN A HUGE BABY'LL POP RIGHT OUTTA YOU TOO!
Don't you fret. That's all ya need for it to go well
3

VERY QUICKLY.

AND TIME PASSED...





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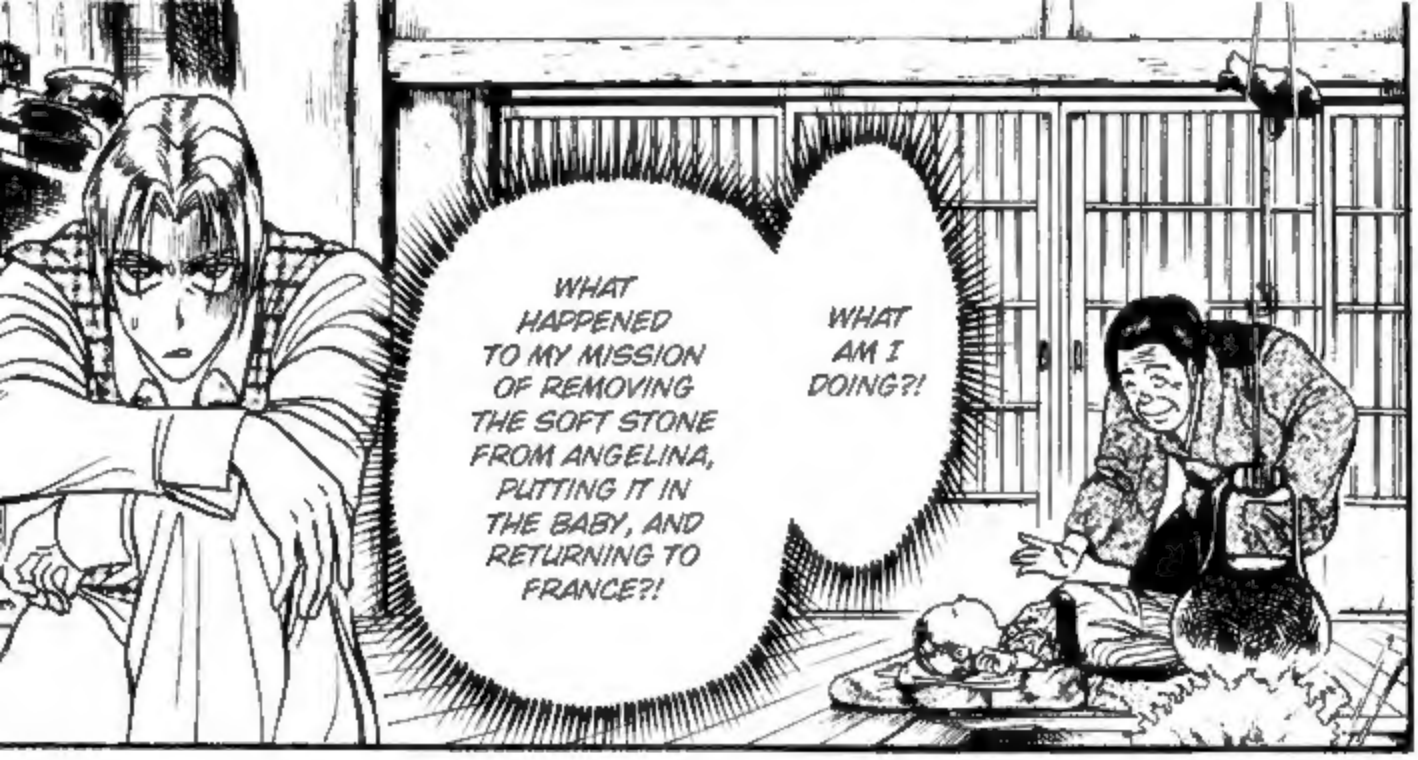
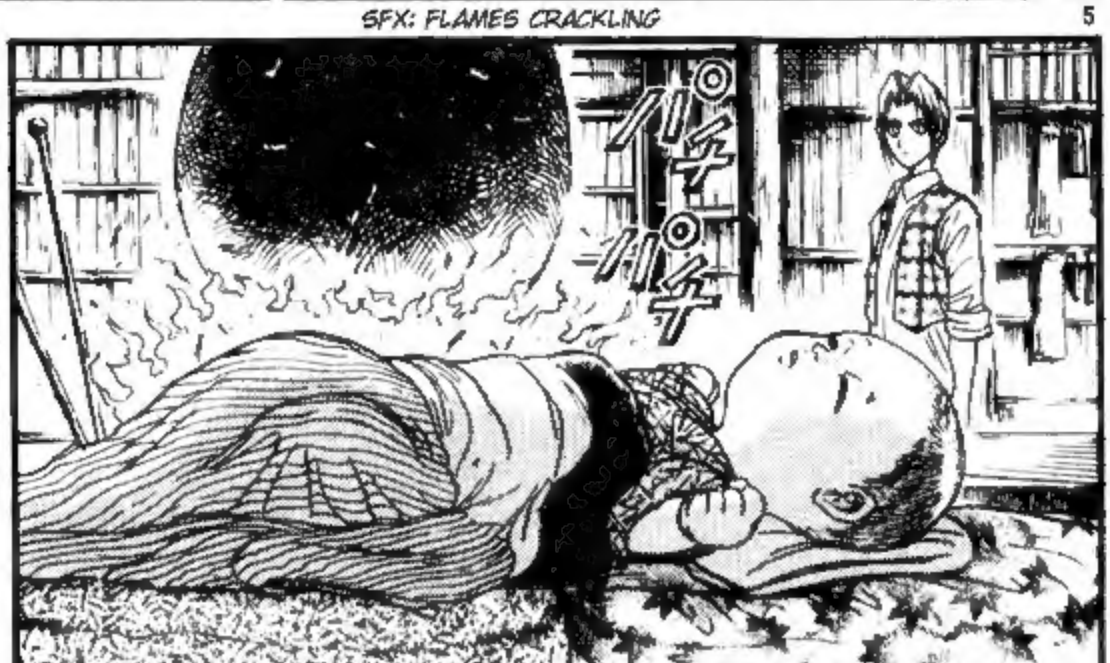
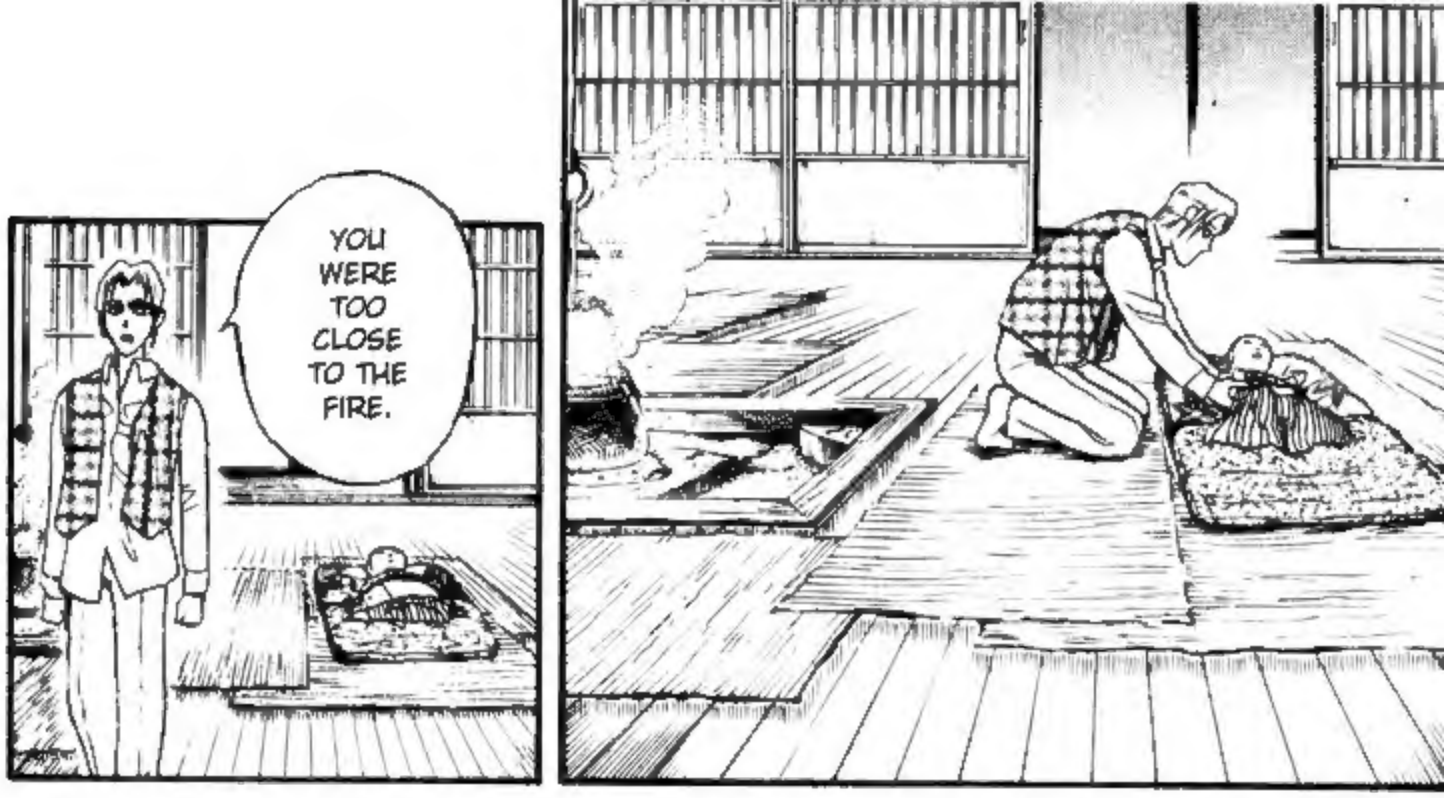

WHAT HAPPENED TO MY MISSION OF REMOVING THE SOFT STONE FROM ANGELINA, PUTTING IT IN THE BABY, AND RETURNING TO FRANCE?!
WHAT AM I DOING?!

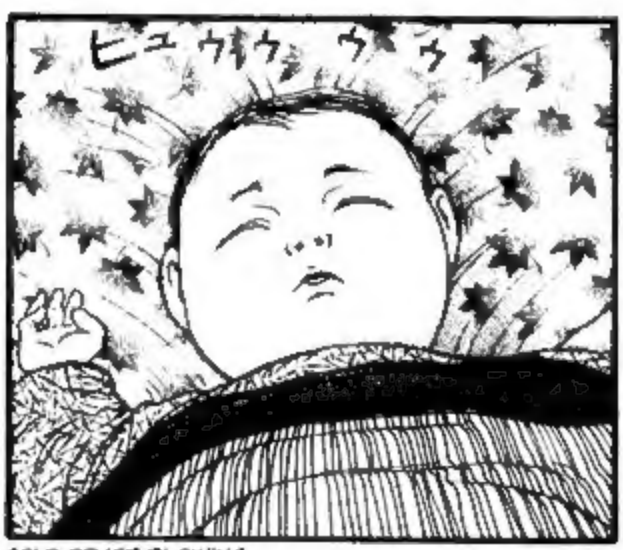
SFX: FLAMES CRACKLING

5

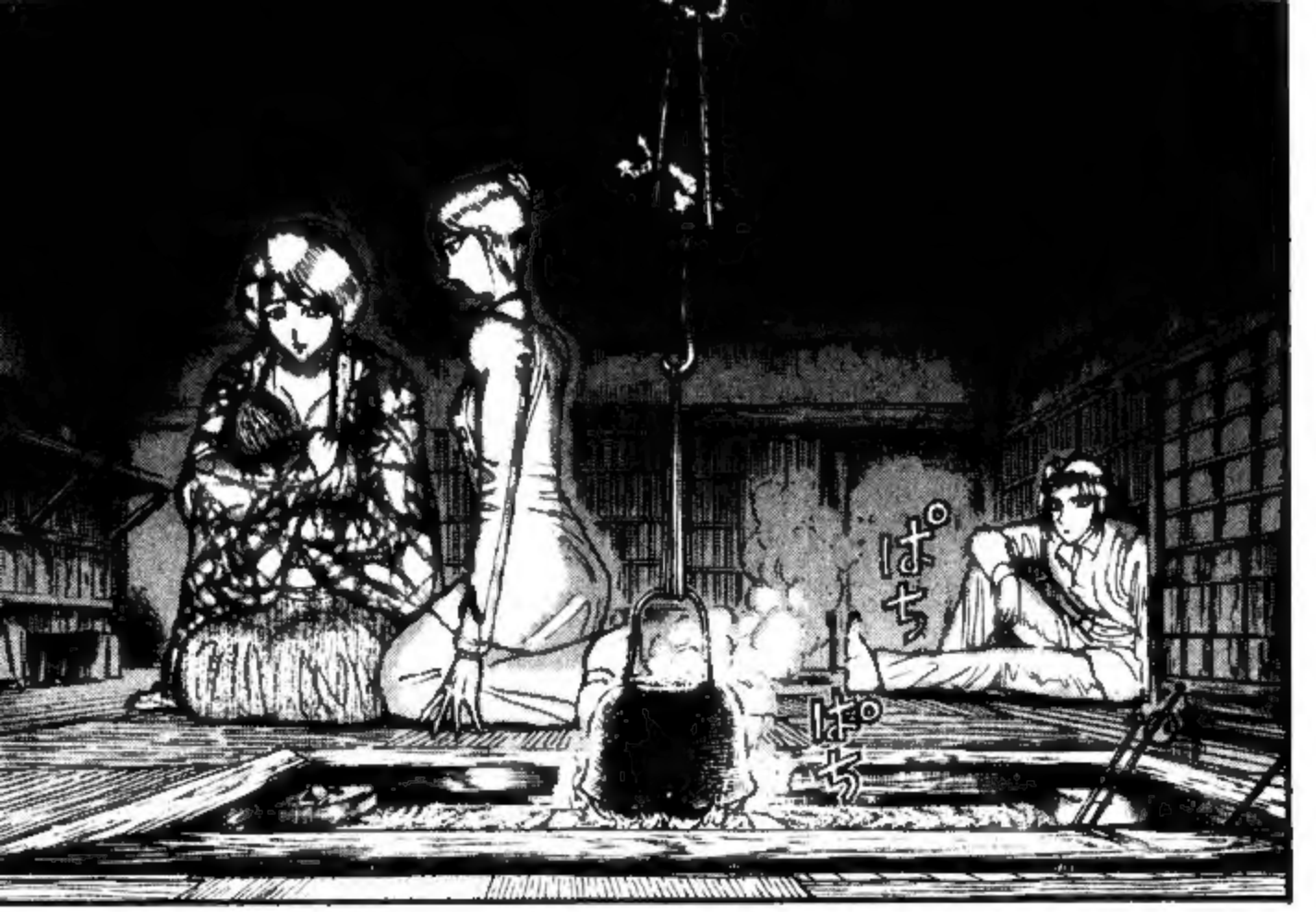


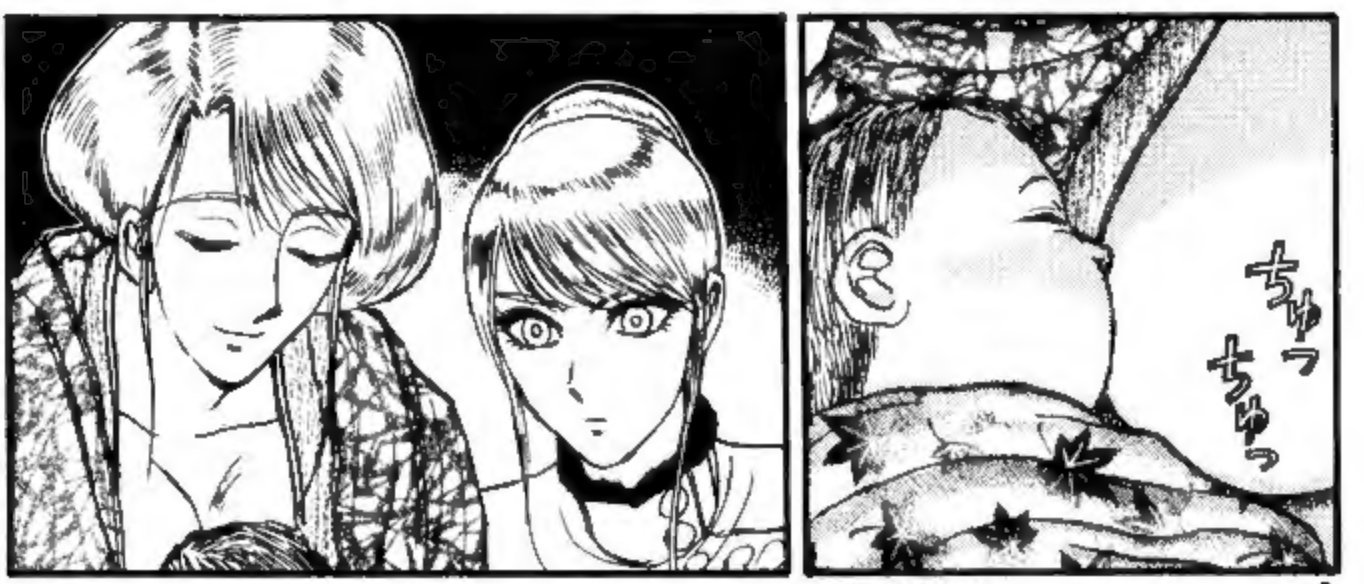


SFX: GETTING ANNOYED



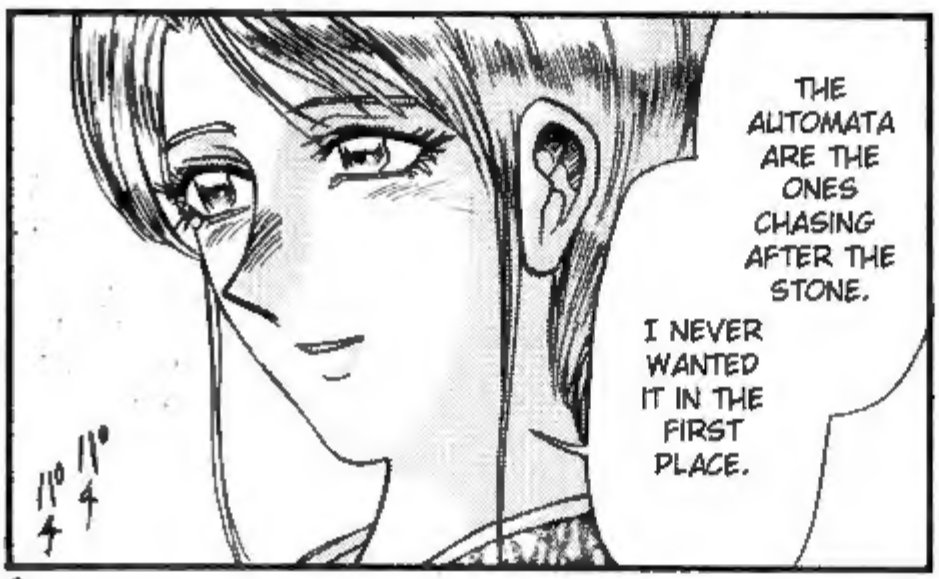
SFX: COLD DRAFT BLOWING





SFX: SUCKLING

SHOUJI, TOME, AND HANA AREN'T SHOWING UP TODAY?
APPARENTLY THERE'S SOME KIND OF CELEBRATION IN THE VILLAGE.
HMPH. AWFULLY CARELESS OF THEM TO LEAVE YOU ALONE WITH ME AND THE DOLL.
YOU'RE STILL PLANNING TO CARRY OUT YOUR MISSION?
.....



8

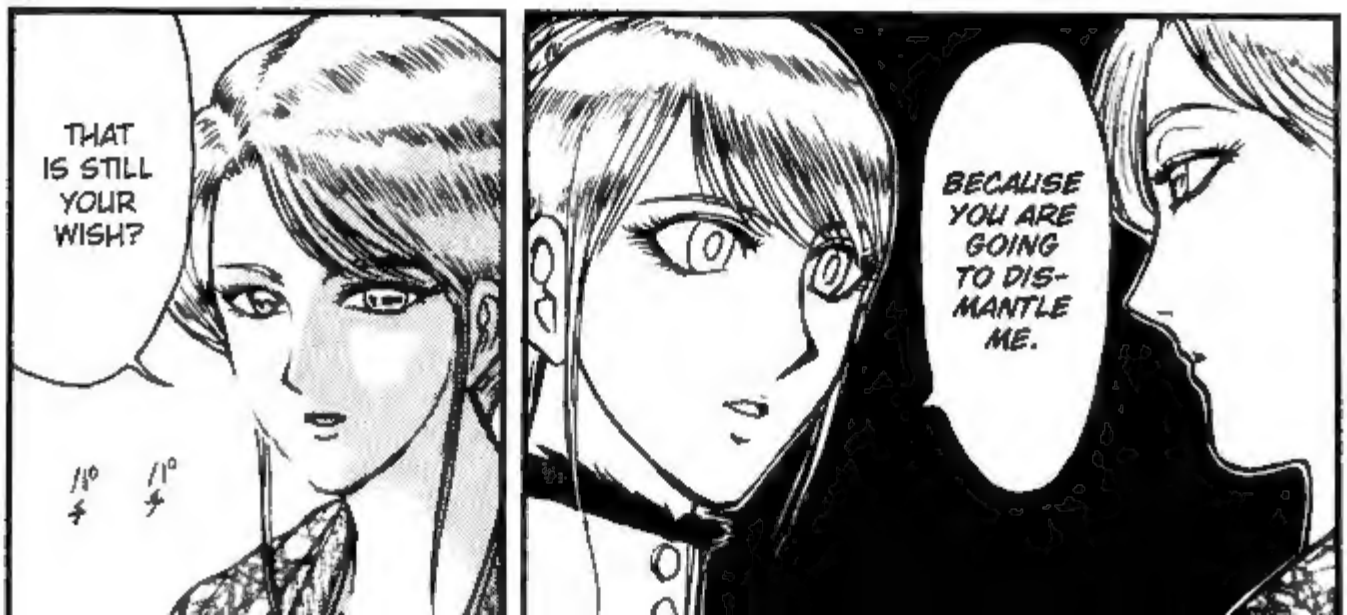
THE SOFT STONE ISN'T VERY DEEPLY EMBEDDED IN MY STOMACH. I SHOULD THINK YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT ME OPEN HERE...
HEE HEE... TRY NOT TO HURT ME, THOUGH.
...?

SFX: RUSTLING IN CLOTH

I CAN TAKE IT BACK TO FRANCE WITH ME!
THAT'S RIGHT. IF I CAN JUST FIND SOME WAY OF STORING THE SOFT STONE...
BUT HOW AM I TO DO THAT?!
WHAT ON...
HM?
OH ...?
THAT'S ODD...
ANGELINA HAD IT TRANS-PLANTED WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG, AND GREW UP WITH IT INSIDE HER.
AND IT HAS TO BE A CHILD'S BODY, BECAUSE AN ADULT'S BODY WILL REJECT THE STONE.
THE SOFT STONE WILL EVAPORATE IF IT ISN'T STORED ONSIDE A HUMAN BODY.

BUILDING THEM WITHIN YOUR BODY... EXPELLING THEM INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD TO BE MODIFIED THERE... IT IS A PROCESS WITH A GREAT MANY STEPS.
IS THIS THE WAY THAT HUMAN CHILDREN ACQUIRE THEIR POWER?
HM?
WHAT YOU'RE DOING...
Should we give up on the child idea...? Have there been any experiments with animals instead...?

SHE WON'T GROW THAT QUICKLY.
FRANCINE, HUMANS GROW TO ADULTHOOD VERY SLOWLY.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO REACH YOUR SIZE? UNTIL TO-MORROW?
I WOULD LIKE TO BE DISMANTLED AFTER I HAVE WATCHED THIS CHILD GROW TO FULL SIZE...
AND THE MANY JOYS AND SORROWS WE EXPERIENCE DURING THAT TIME...
THAT IS WHAT FORMS EACH HUMAN.
THE PASSAGE OF TIME, YEAR BY YEAR...
I WILL NOT REMAIN FUNC-TIONING THAT LONG...
TWENTY YEARS... WHAT A LONG TIME. AUTOMATA ARE FULLY BUILT IN TWO DAYS.
GENERALLY, YOU ARE CONSIDERED AN ADULT AFTER ABOUT TWENTY YEARS.


THAT IS STILL YOUR WISH?
BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO DIS-MANTLE ME.

I SEE...
I HAVE NO OPTION BUT TO CEASE BEING.
AS I AM NOW, I WILL NEVER AGAIN SEE THE CREATOR WHO WANTED ME TO LAUGH...
I HAVE GROWN TIRED...
OF MY SEARCH FOR SOME-THING TO MAKE ME LAUGH.
I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY YOU.
BUT, FRANCINE, YOU WERE THERE WHEN MY ELEONORE WAS BORN...

NOW THAT MY BABY IS HERE...
BUT ...
I DON'T WANT THE START OF HER LIFE TO BE MARKED BY A GRUDGE FROM THE PAST.
NOR DOES IT MEAN THAT I DON'T HATE YOU FOR BEING THE LEADER OF THE AUTO-MATA.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE FORGOTTEN THAT DAY.

THERE NOW. ELEO-NORE'S ASLEEP.
TIME TO BURP.
BUT...
I'M SORRY... I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

ROCK-A-BYE, LITTLE LOVE

MY DEAR LITTLE GIRL

GOOD GIRL.
HIC!
ぽんぽん

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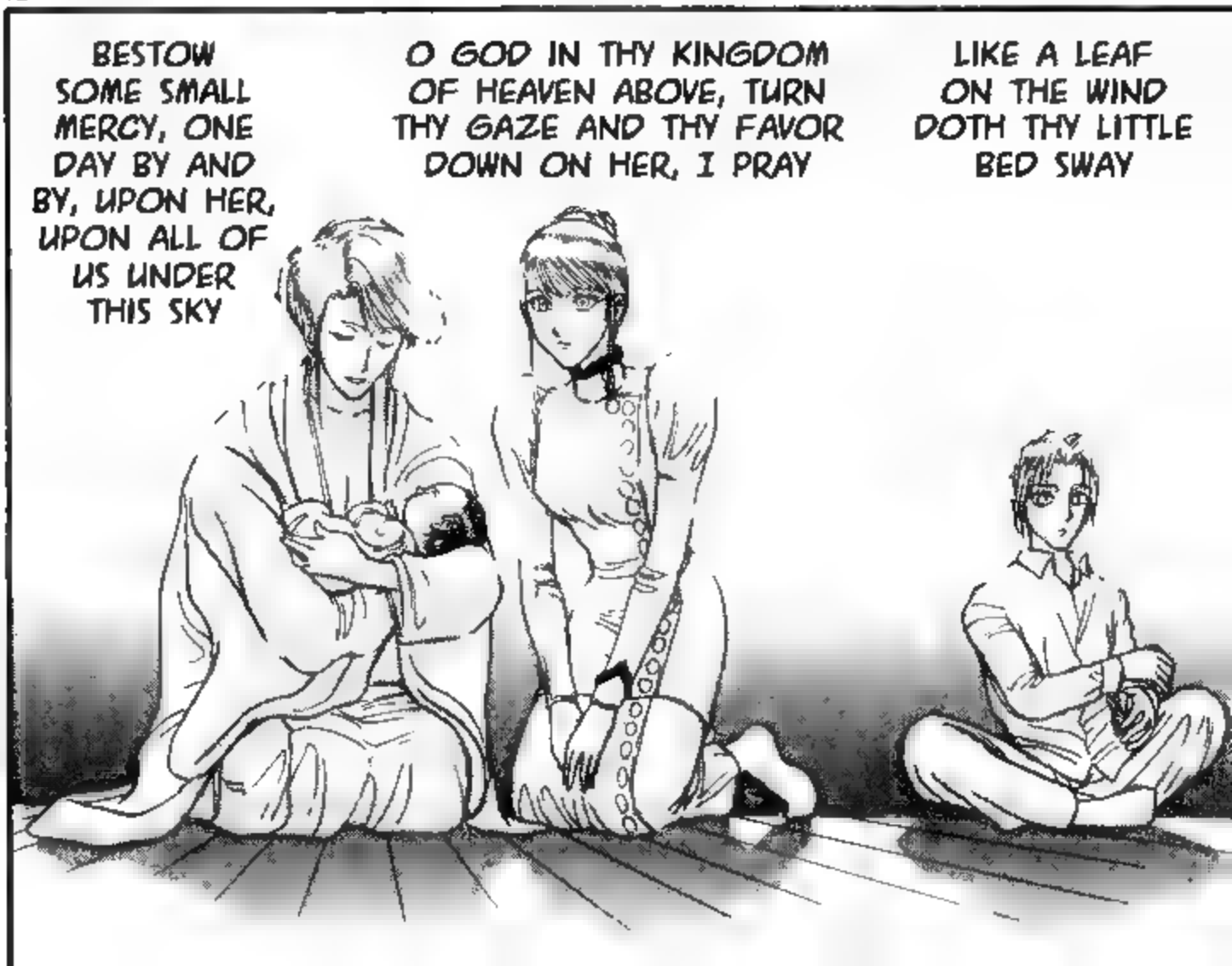

BESTOW SOME SMALL MERCY, ONE DAY BY AND BY, UPON HER, UPON ALL OF US UNDER THIS SKY
O GOD IN THY KINGDOM OF HEAVEN ABOVE, TURN THY GAZE AND THY FAVOR DOWN ON HER, I PRAY
LIKE A LEAF ON THE WIND DOTH THY LITTLE BED SWAY

WHERE ARE WE GOING?
COME WITH ME.
DOLL FRANCINE ...
...THE NEXT DAY.

IT'S UNDER THOSE TALL CEDARS THERE.

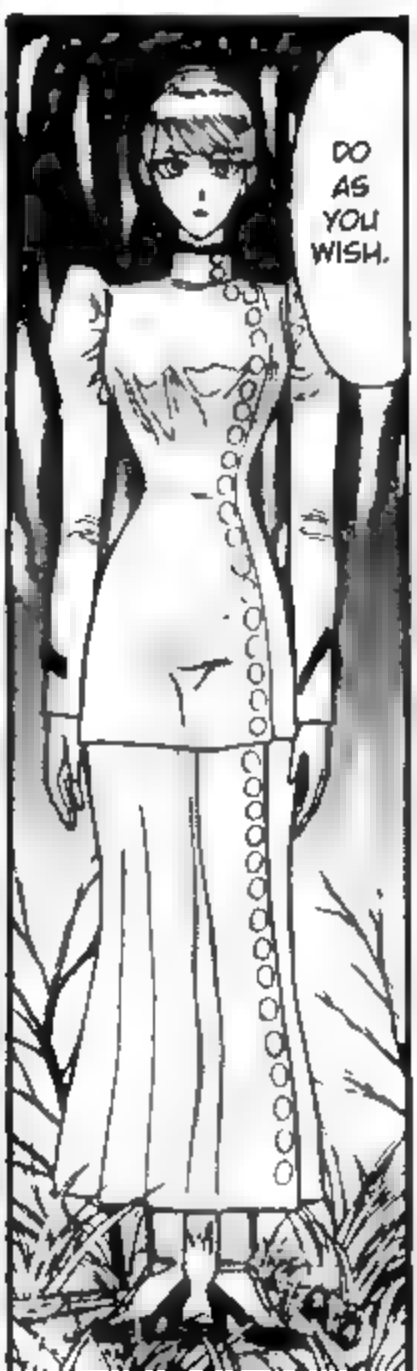
THERE WON'T BE ANY PEOPLE AROUND THERE.
I'VE HEARD THE REMAINS ARE STILL STANDING OF THE HOUSE WHERE TAMI-SAN USED TO LIVE LONG AGO.

I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU.
THAT'S WHERE...

ANGELINA MAY NOT BE PLANNING ON DISMANTLING YOU...

WHAT KIND OF SHIROGANE WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T DISMANTLE YOU?
BUT I HAVEN'T FORGIVEN YOU.

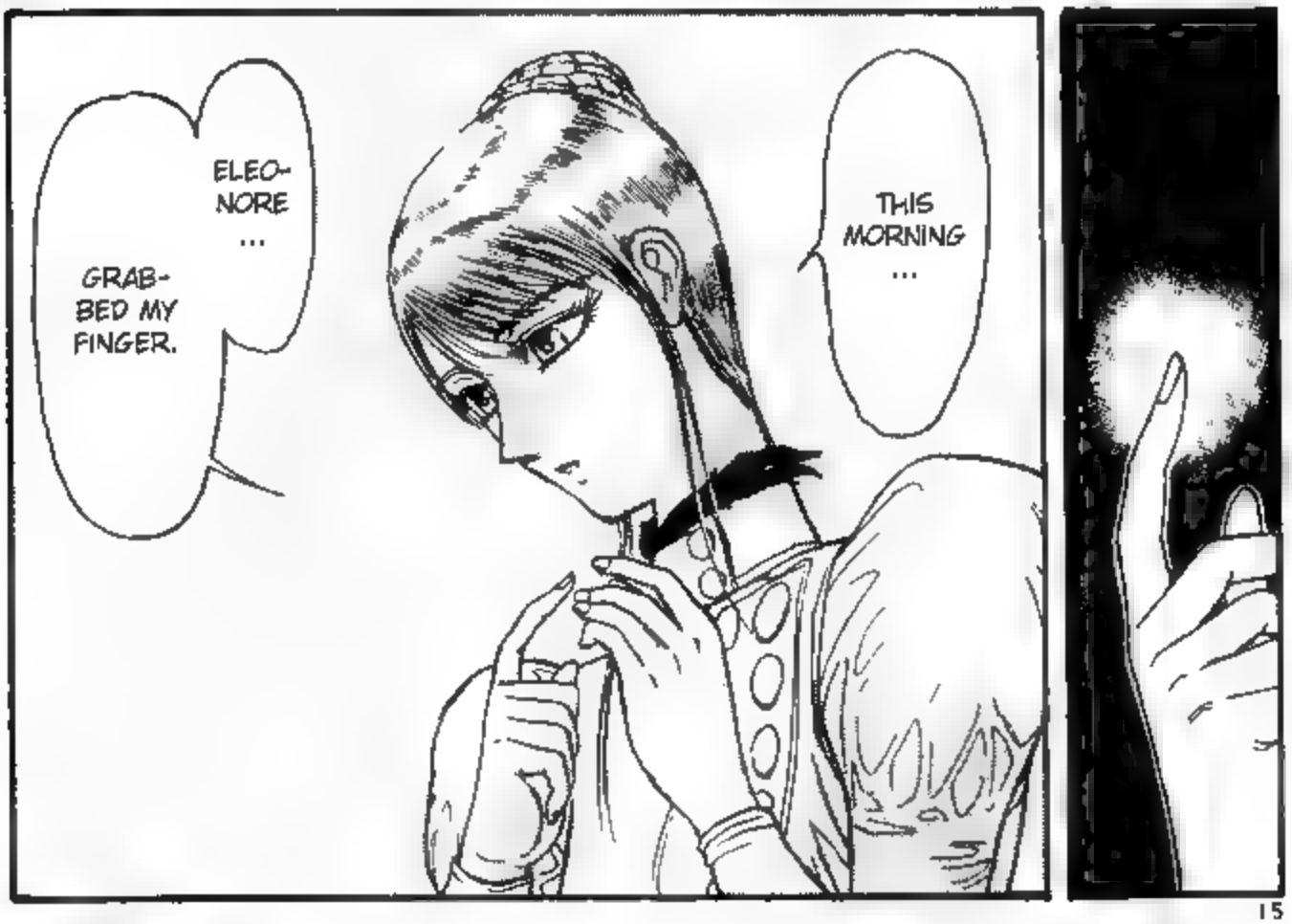
YOU WON'T PUT UP A FIGHT?!
I MEAN WHAT I SAY!


DO AS YOU WISH.

I SUFFERED BECAUSE OF THE ZONAPHA SYNDROME THAT YOU AUTOMATA SPREAD.

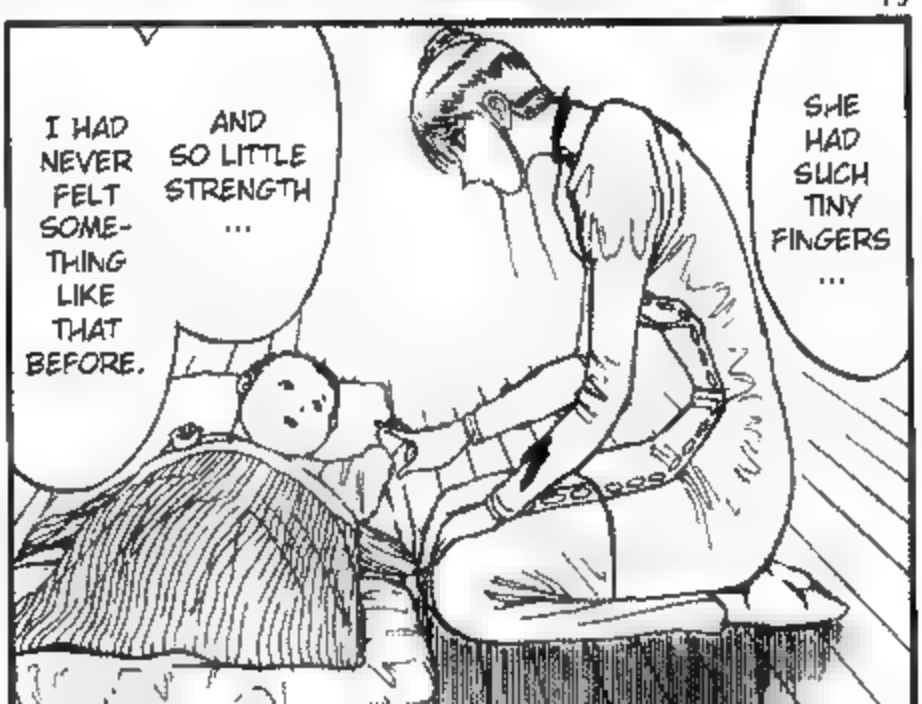
IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO RESIST. I HAVE OLYMPIA WITH ME.

YOU ONLY WHAT?
...I ONLY...
I CAME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE TO BE DESTROYED.


ELEO-NORE ...
GRAB-BED MY FINGER.
THIS MORNING ...

15

AND?! WHAT OF IT?


I HAD NEVER FELT SOME-THING LIKE THAT BEFORE.
AND SO LITTLE STRENGTH ...
SHE HAD SUCH TINY FINGERS ...

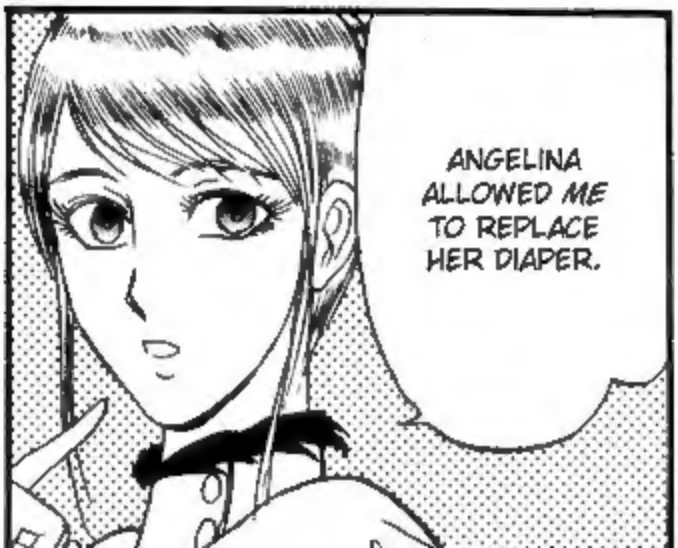
IT'S NOTHING.
I ONLY...
...WONDERED IF SHE MIGHT DO IT...
...AGAIN TONIGHT.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
BEGIN WHENEVER YOU LIKE.

ヒョオオオ

...I'M THE ONE WHO BUILT HER A TOY TRAIN.

.....


ANGELINA ALLOWED ME TO REPLACE HER DIAPER.

WHEN SHE WAS BEING BATHED IN THE TUB...
ELEONORE GRABBED MY SLEEVE AND WOULD NOT LET GO.
WELL, I'VE BEEN PUTTING POWDER ON HER SO SHE DOESN'T GET HEAT RASH.
OHH, DAMMIT!
ELEO-NORE IS TOO CUTE!
WELL, I'M...
ほす

Phew...
I COULD WATCH HER FOR-EVER.
YES...

ヒ-オオオオオオ
...IT'S GETTING NEAR HER NURSING TIME, ISN'T IT?
YES. AND SHE'LL NEED HER DIAPER REPLACED BEFORE THAT HAPPENS...

AND WHERE'S THE SOFT STONE?
WE'RE HERE.
ARE WE HERE?

THAT WAY.
IT'S INSIDE ANGE-LINA.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

For a variety of reasons, I'm ***not*** returning to scanlating Karakuri Circus any time in the foreseeable future. However, with the anime coming out, I decided there was no point in not posting the rest of volume 25, which is already typeset.The volume doesn't finish this arc by any means, but it ends at something I consider a more natural stopping point than the current one.

I've fixed a silly mistake I made in the recurring lullaby that Angelina sings; this version of the song should be considered the final one. As always, this is an amateur translation and I have no objections if anyone wants to modify old chapters I've posted to fix my errors.